

National Congress Bulletin



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Dear P.T.A. President:

AS I WROTE the date for this message, I suddenly realized that this is the last month of the first year of the sixties. We have looked forward to a new decade, been challenged by it, tried to analyze on which needs above all others we ought to center our energies. And the first year is gone!

» We in the P.T.A. have a reprieve of sorts, for really our chief round of action in the first year of the sixties began in September, and we have yet time in which to make that year count. We have time even to say to ourselves, "What do we here, now; in this month—busy as it is—propose to do or plan that will truly affect the lives of our children?"

» Of course we can all, as parents and as teachers, help the children whose lives touch ours to feel the deeper, unselfish meanings of the religious festivals we celebrate at this time of year. We can be sure that no child is left to feel alone in these days of family gatherings. We, the adults, can ask ourselves a few searching questions about our own attitudes. All this, I truly believe, is P.T.A. work.

» But this is the work of the day, so to speak. In the months that ensue there must be thinking and action that can fill our T.A. lives with achievement—achievement which will as-



» Clarice Kline (left), president of the National Education Association, and Mrs. Parker welcomed the opportunity to discuss mutual interests when the Joint Committee: N.E.A.-N.C.P.T. met at the National Congress Headquarters late last summer.

sure us that we have made a contribution to the welfare of children and youth;

- By helping their parents to understand them.
- By learning more of their schools' aims and needs.
- By discovering community facilities and conditions that make life richer for its young citizens.

► If we will but take time to define the ways in which we can, in our P.T.A.'s, decide what needs doing, and then do it, we shall have given our children the true gift, one that will last beyond the all too swift and closing days of annual festivals marked so dramatically and intensely.

► By the time you read this the first National Child Guidance Week will be past. I feel sure that in many communities it emphasized how learning about child nature can best help us to bring it to its highest flowering. If you feel that your P.T.A. had a program of unusual significance, I truly would like to have you write me about it. No one knows better than I the effort it takes to put words on paper, but I hope you will set yourself to the task.

► Some of you will not need to have me speak (probably for the last time in the three years of this administration) of the pamphlet prepared with careful thought to provide an Action Program on our theme: "Strengthening the Home, Source of Our Nation's Greatness." Surely this booklet has been a beacon in all that you have done.

► If in your 1960 P.T.A. work you have still to select a specific project on which to concentrate your efforts, won't you make a quick survey of the booklet's suggestions to see which ones best fit your own community? Probably you have already completed this process. In either case, the true test of our dedication will lie in the completion of your local action program. Your final report to your P.T.A. may be its tissue and its ribbons, but these too add significance to the effort that went into what you have given.

► May each one of you, with your co-workers, experience the joy that comes with true giving—giving that will last for a lifetime because it has become a durable part of the lives of children and youth.

► A Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and other greetings that carry the spirit of these deeply-honored古老节日.

Sincerely yours,

Karla S. Parker
MRS. JAMES C. PARKER, President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

"I am a P.T.A. member because..."

Some of our nation's prominent citizens tell why they joined the parent-teacher partnership.

Why do you belong to a P.T.A.?" a number of our country's leading citizens were asked. Their answers are a warm tribute to the parent-teacher organization.

During February 1961, millions of persons, each with his own special reasons for belonging to a P.T.A., will join in marking the sixty-fourth anniversary of the organization founded to promote the welfare of children and youth—the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. May your Founders Day observance sharpen your members' awareness of what it means to belong to a P.T.A. and have a share in making this a better world for children.

MRS. EVA GREEENSLIT ANDERSON, legislator, educator, writer (*Chelan, Washington, P.T.A.*): "I have no children of my own, but I never fail to join and to boost the P.T.A. The P.T.A. is the 'right arm' of the school. In no other organization do we get so much for comparatively so little. No parent can afford not to belong. I have seen the P.T.A. in action. I know its strength at the grass roots and in the halls of legislation."



• An active P.T.A. member of long standing is G. Bowden Hunt, judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of Polk County, Florida, since 1945. He is shown here with his daughters Fran and Lynn, son Terry, Mrs. Hunt, and little Bowden, Jr. Judge Hunt is president of the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges and is serving as juvenile protection chairman of the Polk County Council of P.T.A. s.

JOHN NANCE GARNER, former Vice-president of the United States (*member of all five units comprising the Uvalde, Texas, City Council of P.T.A.'s*): "It is an honor to belong to an organization such as the P.T.A. With its objectives it will do much for youth, of which I am a great admirer."

FOOTBALL STAR LOU GROZA, Cleveland Browns (*Robert Lechner School P.T.A., Berea, Ohio*): "Teamwork between parents and teachers is important for our little champions—not champions necessarily in a sports activity but champions who

are learning the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic. . . . Why shouldn't we cooperate with the coaches [teachers] to help make ourselves proud of our little heroes? Really, for us not to join a P.T.A. would be similar to a football error—fumbling at a crucial moment."

REAR ADMIRAL L. V. HONSINGER, USN, commanding officer, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, where nuclear submarines are built (*Mare Island Elementary P.T.A., Vallejo, California*): "Having to move to new communities every few years is perhaps the strongest reason why Mrs. Honsinger and I have always been interested in looking for good schools and finding them where strong P.T.A. organizations exist. Teachers who devote their workday lives to the instruction of children must be supported in the much longer out-of-school-hour periods by parents as well as community leaders. We have found through the years that the P.T.A. has sponsored and encouraged this kind of teamwork."

GARLAND ROARK, author of *Wake of the Red Witch* and many other absorbing tales of the sea (*Nacogdoches, Texas, High School P.T.A.*): "I am a P.T.A. member because I can think of nothing more rewarding to any person interested in the welfare of the community than the development of a better understanding between the educator, the home, and the public for the benefit of our youth. Membership in the P.T.A. opens the door to pleasant association and intelligent cooperation with others in the practical pursuit of this aim."

MARY MEADE, food editor of the *Chicago Tribune* (*Kellogg School and Morgan Park High School P.T.A.'s, Chicago*): "Membership in the P.T.A. is a mixture of duty and pleasure for me. As a career mother, I am aware of how easy it would be to take for granted the school's interest in my child and to go my way while he goes his, without knowing whether his education is good or bad or how he fits into the pattern of school activities. I want to know what the school is doing for him and what I can do to help him gain the most benefit from his classes. I want to lend moral support and what time I can give to projects that affect the school and therefore also affect my child's interests."

RALPH EDWARDS, creator and narrator of the TV program, *This Is Your Life* (*Hawthorne Elementary School P.T.A., Beverly Hills, California*): "Mrs. Edwards and I feel it is important to belong to the P.T.A. in order to keep as close as possible to the education picture of our children; to give our children visual evidence of our interest in their education; to assure the teachers and school administrators that as parents we are vitally interested in their work and stand ready to help them in whatever way we can mutually advance our children's academic and character traits."

DR. JAMES O. ELAM, director of the Department of Anesthesiology, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, New York, who established the advantages of the mouth-to-mouth method of artificial respiration (*Elma Elementary P.T.A., Buffalo*): "I belong to our P.T.A. because I am interested in the problems and the progress of the schools where we send our four children. Mrs. Elam and I realize that the quality of their education depends not only upon the teachers and facilities, but on the active efforts of parents as well."

LET'S MAKE IT 12,000,001 IN SIXTY-ONE!

Building Closer Parent-Teacher Cooperation

THERE'S PROOF positive that parent-teacher cooperation is being increasingly recognized as invaluable in securing "for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education." Current evidence comes to us by way of articles in two parent-teacher bulletins received recently at the National Office.

In the October 1960 issue of *Region News*, bulletin of the Chicago Region of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers, is a report on action that grew out of one school superintendent's appreciation for what parent-teacher cooperation can accomplish. Here it is:

Conference To Promote Better Understanding Between the Schools and the P.T.A.

• In August two conferences were held between the Chicago Region and the board of education personnel. The purpose of these conferences was to increase the effectiveness of the P.T.A. in Chicago by developing a better understanding between the schools and the P.T.A. Mrs. Louis Malis, president of the Chicago Region, stated, "The P.T.A. in Chicago has tremendous potential. We have great faith in the general superintendent and we have great confidence in the Chicago public schools. We know, however, that much needs to be done, and it is our earnest belief that if we can establish a strong, positive relationship between all of our local units and the schools, it will lead to better understanding and support of each other."

P.T.A.'s greeted with excitement the announcement made by Dr. Willis [general superintendent] that he has requested all district superintendents to meet "informally," once a month, with all the local unit presidents within each school district or an exchange of ideas and information. The Chicago Region believes this is a first and beneficial step toward a mutual and better understanding of each other's problems and needs.

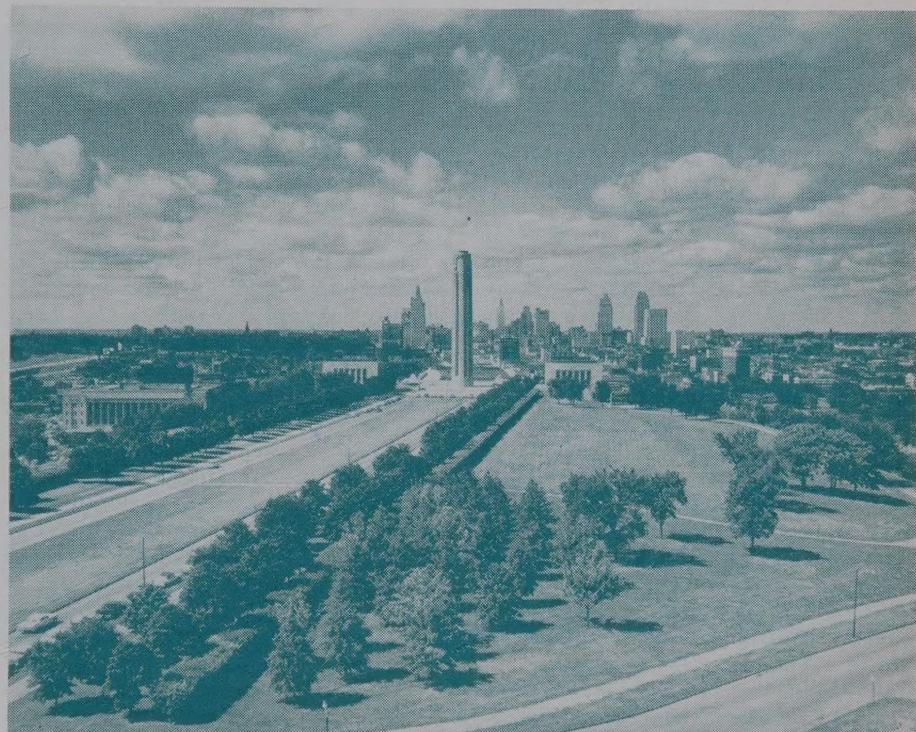
ALTHOUGH THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS of American Parents and Teachers is comparatively new among state congresses, its members are well aware of the values of the parent-teacher partnership. Pointing up some of these values is an article in the September 23 *Newsletter* of the European Congress. We quote:

Planning Together

• Parents and teachers have much in common. P.T.A. leaders and the professional staff cooperate more effectively when they recognize the contribution that each makes to children and when they

All Trails Lead to . . .

Kansas City in May



© Randazzo and Morrison, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri

A view of Kansas City, Missouri, site of the 1961 National Congress convention.

THE SIXTY-FIFTH annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will be held May 21-24, 1961, in Kansas City, Missouri. Located near the geographical center of the United States, Kansas City will be an unusually convenient meeting place for P.T.A. members everywhere.

If you come to Kansas City—and we hope you will!—you will see the monuments and public parks that mark the original route of the famous Santa Fe trail, which early in the nineteenth century cut through the city to open the

way for traffic to the Southwest. Today Kansas City is one of the great transportation centers of our country, with modern "trails" leading to it from north, south, east, and west. You and other P.T.A. members who follow these trails in May will discover the way to more stimulating P.T.A. programs and projects.

Travel by air, water, rail, or highway, but start now to collect your maps of trailways that lead to Kansas City. Come to your National Congress convention in May.

consider current work and problems from the other's point of view.

Home-school cooperation means homes and schools work together for the welfare of the child and his community. It means parents and teachers coming to know and understand each other as human beings with common interests and common problems. It means a pooling of efforts, a sharing of responsibility, a loyal and understanding support of one for the other, and a strengthening of mutual respect and confidence. It means a harmonious and mutually helpful relationship between those who make up the biggest share of a child's world—his parents and his teacher.

Christmas and Your Driving

• Again this holiday season the National Safety Council is appealing to persons of every faith to show brotherly concern for others—especially on the highway—to help hold down the holiday accident toll.

You can help "keep Christmas in your driving," says the Council, if (1) you start your trip in time; (2) don't drive fast; (3) don't drive after drinking; (4) watch out for pedestrians; and (5) use seat belts—or add them to your gift list.

National LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

• July 31, 1960–November 30, 1960 •

Show this list to friends whose names appear here. What other citizens in your community deserve to share this spotlight?

ON FEBRUARY 17, 1961, parent-teacher members throughout our land will honor Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, the Founders of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. At that time, too, many P.T.A.'s, as part of their Founders Day observances, will honor local presidents and other P.T.A. leaders who have furthered our important work.

To parent-teacher groups planning such tributes for Founders Day, may I suggest that there is no more suitable gift or evidence of esteem than an Honorary National Life Membership. Such a Life Membership is the P.T.A.'s "distinguished service award," and its presentation to a deserving person in the community can be a memorable highlight of a Founders Day program.

The P.T.A. that presents an Honorary National Life Membership at its Founders Day meeting not only pays tribute to past achievements but also helps underwrite future accomplishments. Each Life Membership helps ensure the continuity and progress of our parent-teacher movement because fees from all National Life Memberships go into the National Congress Endowment Fund.

Founders Day is an especially meaningful occasion on which to present an Honorary National Life Membership to someone who has helped to make this a

better world for children. But it goes without saying that the award of a Membership is appropriate—and appreciated—at any time of the year. It is a pleasure to welcome into National Life Membership the persons who have most recently received this high honor. Their names are given in the list that follows.

If you would like information on how to give Honorary National Life Memberships, you can find it on page 253 of the *Parent-Teacher Manual*. One important detail: In requesting a Membership, will you please be sure to give the *date of presentation* and the *home address of the recipient*; this information is needed for the records in the National Congress Office.

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD
A Director of The Endowment Fund
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

• • •

California: Mrs. Mary I. McMullen, San Diego; Mrs. Avery Streech, Fullerton

District of Columbia: Mrs. William F. Robie

Florida: Mrs. Howard M. Weenick, St. Petersburg

Illinois: Mrs. Arthur Hermann, Belleville

Maine: Mrs. Joseph W. Hamlin, Bangor; Mrs. Seth S. Mullin, Bath

Minnesota: Dean M. Schweickhard, St. Paul

Nebraska: Mrs. W. C. Meierhenry, Lincoln

Ohio: C. A. Gibbens, Elyria; Mrs. John L. Sauer, Canton

Oklahoma: Rosemary Sheehan, Tulsa

Tennessee: Mrs. Virgie Lee Jones, Atwood

Texas: M. A. Rodemacher, Beaumont



• The National Life Membership pin (magnified here) is made of rolled gold and blue enamel.

CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL

• A nation-wide five-year centennial observance of the Civil War is now being planned for 1961–65. Congress has established a national Centennial Commission, to serve as a clearinghouse in guiding and coordinating over-all programming for the observance and to furnish helpful information.

The Commission emphasizes that planning for the actual observances is to be done by the states and local communities themselves. Its suggestions for community activities include (1) encouraging systematic and prolonged searches for Civil War memorabilia of all kinds (the collection and filming of Civil War period newspapers is regarded as a prime objective of the Centennial); (2) making collections of all existing letters, diaries, maps, and newspapers of the Civil War period, micro-filming these in cases where the present owners want to keep the originals; (3) marking the sites of Civil War events; (4) planning commemorative exercises; and (5) placing in a suitable location a bronze tablet or framed scroll bearing the names of local men who participated in the Civil War.

In a letter to the Centennial Commission, President Eisenhower said, "I would urge in all our commemorations of the Civil War Centennial . . . that we look on this great struggle not merely as a set of military operations but as a period in our history in which the times called for extraordinary degrees of patriotism and heroism on the part of the men and women of both the North and the South. In this context we may derive inspiration from their deeds to renew our dedication . . . to the furtherance, together with other free nations of the world, of the freedom and dignity of man and the building of a just and lasting peace."

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN
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Publications and National Parent-Teacher

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-chief: Eva H. Grant

Senior editors: Mary Elinore Smith, Vera Diekhoff

Production manager: Eleanor Miller

Assistant editors: Pauline Rhiner, Dorothy E. Welker

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Promote the P.T.A. Magazine

Bridge to Understanding

"We hope to include in our program for each monthly meeting excerpts from our national president's messages in the *National Parent-Teacher*. We feel this will bring us closer to what is happening in our National Congress as well as in our local unit," writes Mrs. Patricia Ann Quillen, president of the Live Oak (Florida) P.T.A.

Mrs. Quillen also reports that the unit included in its budget this year a *National Parent-Teacher* Overseas Gift Subscription. As a result, someone in Argentina is now getting acquainted with our P.T.A. Magazine.

Elected" To Serve

National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine received a warm "vote of confidence" this fall from the Buckland-Shelburne P.T.A. (Massachusetts). Wrote Mrs. William Hefner, unit president: "This year our P.T.A. is sending complimentary *National Parent-Teacher* subscriptions to its officers and to the offices of schools and physicians in the towns of Buckland and Shelburne Falls." Enclosed with the note was a check for fourteen subscriptions.

Moving Ahead with Back Copies

An order for 300 back copies of the *National Parent-Teacher* was recently received by the Magazine office from the Magazine chairman of the Elliott School P.T.A., Munster, Indiana. Accompanying the order was this note: "Our P.T.A.'s executive committee felt this would be the best way to acquaint people with the Magazine. We'll send a copy home with each child a few days before open house at our school on November 9."

Another firm believer in the value of back copies in promoting the Magazine is Mrs. John L. Rulli, president of the Vanderbilt Borough P.T.A., Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania. She says: "One sample copy is

TIMELY TIPS FOR MAGAZINE TALK

Q. What gift is de luxe in quality but low in price, easy to obtain, and gives round-the-calendar help and enjoyment?

A. The *National Parent-Teacher*: The P.T.A. Magazine.

Q. Where will you find still more help for your job of providing a memorable Founders Day program?

A. In the January 1961 issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*: The P.T.A. Magazine.



© Gene Campbell, Lynchburg, Virginia

With this accordion-style poster and the accompanying book of blown-up pages from the "National Parent-Teacher," Mrs. S. Adrian Whiteside (center), Virginia Magazine chairman, illustrated her talk, "Using the Parent-Teacher Magazine," at the Virginia Congress summer conference in Lynchburg. Shown with her here are (left) Mrs. C. A. Jewell, state membership chairman, and Mrs. E. A. Groshong, director of the Chesapeake District.

worth more than any promotion idea I know of. Until I was given a sample copy, I never knew what a volume of education there is in each issue. Placing a copy with a parent and giving him an opportunity to read it at his leisure is the best way, I think, for selling this wonderful Magazine." Mrs. Rulli backed up her remarks with a request for twenty or thirty back copies.

* (Current issues, beginning with September 1960, the present volume, are available for 25 cents each; older issues, 15 cents each.)

A Week To Build On

★ As an outgrowth of the first observance of National Child Guidance Week (November 27-December 3), more parents than ever before will want to know how they can learn more about their children's emotional development, needs, and problems. Here is an interest that P.T.A.'s can build on in the coming months.

Don't let parents wonder where they can get the knowledge they need about children's emotional growth and problems. . . .

• Tell them about the fine articles, written by authorities in the field of child

guidance, that appear each month in the *National Parent-Teacher*.

- Use a few minutes at each P.T.A. meeting to point out helpful articles in the latest issue of the Magazine.
- Have sample copies on hand for members to look at.
- Encourage study-discussion groups based on the Magazine's study-course articles.

Fan the spark of interest kindled by National Child Guidance Week into an increase in *National Parent-Teacher* readers and subscribers.

For a Clearer TV Picture

★ When the topic "Children and TV" was discussed at a meeting of the Jefferson P.T.A. (Pierre, South Dakota), the P.T.A. Magazine's TV evaluations and the article, "You and TV: End of the First Round" (November 1959), provided the background for some lively opinion exchanges.

Members also drew up a questionnaire on TV programs, planning to send summaries of their answers to the TV networks.

(Reprints giving sentence summaries of all the TV programs evaluated in the Magazine from September 1959 through June 1960 are now available from the Magazine office. They're five cents each.)*

* Order from National Parent-Teacher, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

STATUS OF LEGISLATION

A Report from Mrs. Fred L. Bull National Chairman, Legislation

AT THE MEETING of the National Board of Managers in September, I reported on the present status of the Legislation Action Program of the National Congress. Following are some excerpts from that report, describing the action the Eighty-sixth Congress took before its adjournment in September on certain bills in which the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is interested.

Federal Support for Public Schools: The Eighty-sixth Congress adjourned its rump session without passing a "federal support for education" bill, even though both houses had previously passed such bills. As reported in May, the Senate on February 4, 1960, approved S.8, a two-year program of federal grants of nearly \$917 million a year to be distributed among the fifty states and used by them for either school construction or teachers' salaries. On May 26, the lower house passed H.R.10128, a bill to provide \$1.3 billion over four years—\$325 million a year—for school construction only. (In passing the bill, the House increased the original specification of three years to four.) The Administration objected to the financing formula in these bills, and the President announced categorically that he would veto any funds to provide salaries for teachers. However, the conservative twelve-man House Rules Committee themselves in effect vetoed the bills by holding back a "rule" to permit the measures to go to conference to be compromised.

The matter of federal support for education now passes into new hands, after eight years of controversy, which produced only one major law (the National Defense Education Act of 1958).

Juvenile Delinquency—Prevention and Control: S.694, supported by our organization, passed the Senate on January 26, 1960 (as previously reported). An almost identical bill (H.R.12108, Green, Democrat, Oregon) was reported favorably by the House Education and Labor Committee in May, only to die when the House Rules Committee could not be persuaded to give it clearance for floor action.

H.R.12108 would have allocated \$2.5 million annually for grants to states, municipalities, and other public and pri-

vate nonprofit agencies for the development of projects aiding in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. An equal amount could be used for grants to defray costs of training personnel for work in juvenile delinquency programs. The legislation would be administered by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, with the advice of an eight-member council.

Library Service: On August 22 the House passed (190-29), in a dramatic suspension of its rules, the bill to extend the Library Services Act for five years. The Senate-passed bill, S.2830, was called up because the companion House bill, H.R.12125, was bottled up in the House Rules Committee. Since it requires a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules of the House and thereby bring to the floor for action a measure that has not been cleared by the Rules Committee, this stratagem can be used only when a bill has strong support. To the watchers in the galleries there was no doubt: The Congress was convinced that the Library Services Act should be extended. The floor action was a tribute to everyone who has worked for the last five years to make the Act a success.

Proposed Amendment to National School Lunch Act: On August 23-24, a House subcommittee (chairman, Cleveland M. Bailey, Democrat, West Virginia) held hearings on H.R.13016 (Brademas, Democrat, Indiana), a bill to amend the National School Lunch Act by changing the formula under which federal funds are allocated to the states. At present these funds are allocated on the basis of the school-age population and per capita income of the states. The proposed amendment would add rate of participation—the number of lunches served—to the formula factors of population and income. Proponents believe this would correct inequities between some states and between public and non-public schools. No action was taken, but it is expected that similar legislation will be introduced in the next Congress.

At the conclusion of my report to the National Board, I thanked Board members for their prompt and effective response to calls for support during 1959-60. I want to take this opportunity to thank you, too, for your support and help during the past year.

- To local legislation chairmen and all others interested in securing "adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth," may I offer these suggestions for the months to come:

Be on the alert to defeat attempts to weaken compulsory school attendance and child labor laws.

Now that elections are over, try to see, write, or telephone the successful candidates and explain our P.T.A. interests (emphasize one, two, or three items in which your members are particularly interested). Tell them why you are concerned and what legislation in these areas will mean to the children in your community.

Arrange with your program chairman for a general meeting on legislation or with your president for a conference or workshop on the subject. Or, whenever quick action is needed on a bill, ask your president for a few minutes at a regular meeting in which to explain the necessary steps.

Encourage other chairmen to help disseminate background information on the needs of schools and children as well as analyses of proposed or pending legislation—local, state, or federal. Nearly every chairman has a stake in legislation. For example, just think what the chairmen of health, school education, reading and library service, juvenile protection, school lunch, mental health, citizenship, safety, and others can do to help you!

- During this interim when Congress (and perhaps your state legislature) is not in session, legislators are at home in their respective states (or local communities); this is a most opportune time, therefore, to get in touch with them and convey the wishes of your membership. It is also a good time to give your members background information and to set up plans for taking quick action in support of desired legislation (action such as forming letter-writing brigades and telephone chains, circulating legislation news sheets to members).

Our potential strength is bound to be felt when millions of members band together and unselfishly volunteer their services to promote the health, education, and welfare of children and youth.

✓ CHECK YOUR CALENDAR Universal Week of Prayer, January 1-8

Founders Day 1961, February 17 (Have you received a copy of the Founders Day 1961 reprint? If not, get it from your state office, which also may have some of last year's reprints on hand.)

1961 National Congress Convention, May 21-24, Kansas City, Missouri

COUNCILS IN ACTION...

P.T.A. SERVICES ARE UNITED THROUGH COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND COOPERATION

Anchorage and Jade Councils • Alaska • Long before the second state legislature convened last year, the Anchorage Council held a workshop to give local legislation chairmen information and insight into responsibilities they faced. Participating in a panel were the legislation chairman, president, past president, and first vice-president of the Alaska Congress, the council legislation chairman, and a local unit legislation chairman.

As an aid to the Alaska Congress legislation action program, the Jade Council (Juneau-Douglas) mimeographed a bulletin compiled by the Alaska Education Association and distributed copies to local units.

ernalillo County Council • New Mexico • The county-wide P.T.A. Clothing Bank in Albuquerque, a joint project of the council and the board of education, has been operating successfully for more than ten years, serving the needs of 4 to 5 per cent of the school children each year. The school administration furnishes the space, and P.T.A. volunteers gather up still-serviceable articles of used clothing and restore them to freshness. P.T.A. volunteers also man the bank.

A full account of this interesting project, which has brightened the lives of more than 20,000 youngsters, appeared in an issue of the *Ladies' Home Journal*.

ew Castle City Council • Pennsylvania • The council, located in a county that has no public health service, decided to find out how many children and adults had the protection of four polio shots. Finding the percentage very low, set up low-cost polio clinics to provide everyone in the community with the benefits of immunization. An orderly, well-organized team of P.T.A. volunteers assisted local physicians in handling the thousands of men, women, and children who took advantage of the service provided during the year by four clinics.

Oklahoma City Council • Oklahoma • "P.T.A. Pointers" was the name given to a series of half-hour programs telecast last year over the local educational TV station and sponsored by the council. Objectives of the weekly programs were to stimulate interest and participation in study-discussion groups, to present factual information by qualified persons, and to demonstrate effective discussion group techniques. Areas covered were physical health, mental health, juvenile problems, character and spiritual education, discipline, safety, and school curriculum. On each program a consultant was interviewed by five representatives of five local units, whose study groups were watching as well as discussing the programs. Study guides were furnished to the "watching groups," and tapes of the programs were made available to units after the telecasts.

Portland Council • Oregon • Each spring for the past five years, the council, jointly with the school welfare committee of the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce, has sponsored a banquet to honor retiring teachers of the Portland schools. Some 350 guests usually gather to pay their respects to about 30 teachers who are feted each year. Dur-

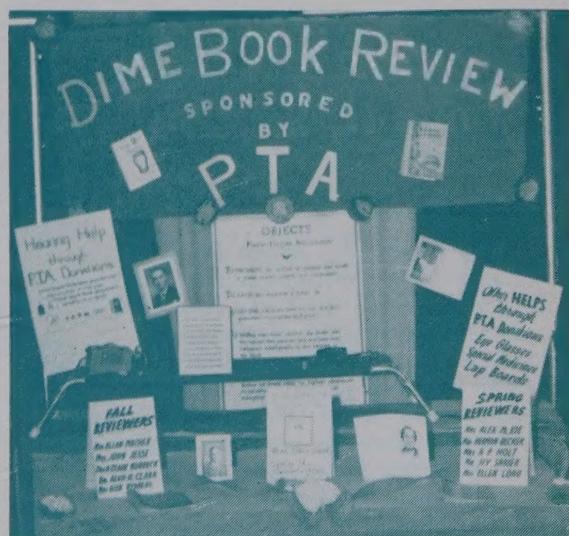
ing this year's function the superintendent of schools presented service pins to the honorees and the mayor expressed the community's appreciation for their dedicated work on behalf of children and youth.

Marion County Council • Tennessee • The council arranged for two local newspapers to publish a series of articles on the special education needs of the exceptional children in the county. The articles were written with the help of J. E. Hogan, who before his retirement had worked in the special education division of the state department of education. As a result of the general interest aroused, the county board of education set up its budget to provide for a special education program and employed a psychologist to screen the children for special education classes.

Detroit Council • Michigan • The council's health chairman made the arrangements for P.T.A. members to tour a children's hospital and a rehabilitation institute, to give them a clearer picture of health needs and services in their city.

(Continued on page 8)

- Highlighted at the Omaha (Nebraska) "Hobbyrama" is the Omaha Council's annual fund-raising project—"Dime Book Reviews." Every fall and spring the council gives a series of five reviews, selling tickets for ten cents each. Average attendance last fall was about 300—not only P.T.A.'ers but others as well.



Ellington Council • Connecticut • While the town's first public high school was still under construction, the council worked to organize a community scholarship fund. Seeking the support not only of P.T.A.'s but of other community organizations as well, the council invited each local group to send at least two representatives to an open meeting to discuss the formation of a new organization whose sole purpose would be scholarships for high school graduates. Bylaws for the organization were drawn up, incorporating suggestions from the various groups. Publicity in the local newspapers and proclamation of a local "Scholarship Week" helped to stimulate the interest and support of the whole community. According to schedule, members of the high school's first graduating class—June 1960—were awarded the first scholarships.

Montgomery County Council • Maryland • A study of the need for guidelines to social conduct prompted the development of a parent-youth code by the council and the Association of Montgomery County High School Student Councils. To learn the wishes of both students and parents, the two groups jointly prepared a questionnaire that was distributed to all senior high school students and their parents—21,000 in all. The resulting code, climaxing a year's efforts, covers dating, home entertaining (open houses, party crashing, smoking, and drinking), public display of affection, and use of the family car.

Mankato Council • Minnesota • Concerned about children's dental health, the council was busy last fall getting citizens out to vote for fluoridation of the city's water supply. In addition, the council for the past four years has assisted with the topical application of fluorides to children's teeth in clinics set up by the dental division of the state department of health.

Warwick Council • Rhode Island • When a bond issue for a new high school failed passage three years in a row, the council's school education committee undertook an intensive campaign to give voters an unbiased picture of the needs for more school space. They took colored slides to show the crowded conditions in the city's junior high and high school classrooms and then offered to show the slides, with a commentary, to

FOR YOUR P.T.A. BOOKSHELF



NEW: Thinking Straight About Drinking—No. 1 in the National Congress' new Highlight Series. This pamphlet consists of the four articles on alcohol and alcohol education by Herman E. Krimmel that have appeared in recent issues of the *National Parent-Teacher*. These articles, says Mrs. A. Kenneth Spencer, chairman

of the National Congress' special committee on alcohol education, are "factual, provocative, scientifically sound, yet written in non-technical language."

Price: 30 cents a copy.

any interested local group. At each showing viewers were asked to fill out a mimeographed quiz of eighteen questions "designed to test your knowledge of the present educational problems in your city," and they found the correct answers listed on a separate sheet. A large number of groups in the community requested film showings and many offered their help in publicizing the need for a new high school.

Warwick voters approved the bond issue by a two to one majority.

McCracken County and Paducah Councils • Kentucky • A series of six mental health workshops for P.T.A. leaders, set up by the director of the Paducah-McCracken County Health Center and the health and welfare chairman of the McCracken County Council and cooperatively sponsored by the two councils, covered the topics of Understanding Ourselves, Positive Mental Health, Service of a Mental Health Center, and Personality Growth and Development (of preschool, school-age, and adolescent children). Each featured a talk by a psychologist or some other authority in the mental health field and a film on mental health, followed by discussion.



OTHER valuable and timely additions to your P.T.A. bookshelf: **What P.T.A. Members Should Know About Juvenile Delinquency**—A digest of current knowledge and a guide to intelligent action. **Price: 50 cents a copy.**

Guiding Children as They Grow—A paper-bound, pocket-size book in which are gathered, for easy reference, some of the outstanding articles printed in the *National Parent-Teacher*. It brings together a wealth of information and insight concerning child guidance, and suggestions for using that knowledge in home, school, and community. **Price: \$1.00 a copy.**

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Order these publications from your state congress or from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

Muscogee County Council • Georgia • How adequate are our county's facilities for children and youth in areas of health, welfare, education, religion, and recreation? This broad subject was tackled by a panel at the council's annual workshop. Reporting needs and progress in the various fields were the director of the county department of public welfare, the director of health education in the county health department, the county school instructional supervisor, the Columbus superintendent of playgrounds, and a pastor.

Indianapolis Council • Indiana • To help P.T.A. members gain a better understanding of the food, culture, background, and present-day conditions of other nations, the council's international relations committee sponsored a series of dinner-discussions on different countries of the world. Twelve dinners featuring the foods and customs of various countries were held in the homes of P.T.A. members, each being followed up by a talk or discussion on the evening's special country. The nations "visited" included India, Germany, Pakistan, Egypt, France, Korea, Switzerland, England and Wales, Greece, Israel, and Japan.